

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

RSR-01 /095 W

----- 116299

R 011120Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9668

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 0921

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: REACTION TO UDF PROMISE OF ACTION CAMPAIGN

REF: ISLAMABAD 6137; LAHORE 0899; KARACHI 1328

1. FEW COMMENTS WE HAVE HAD OCCASION TO HEAR INDICATE UDF'S WEEKEND CONVENTION IN LAHORE WITH RESULTANT DECISION TO ENGAGE IN MORE ACTIVIST PROGRAM MAY HAVE HAD SOME NEGATIVE EFFECT LOCALLY. SOME LAHORE NEWSPAPERS COME TO SAME CONCLUSION.

2. BASIC REASON SEEMS TO BE BAD TIMING; COMPLAINT IS THAT UDF CHOSE TO MAKE AND ANNOUNCE DISOBEDIENCE DECISION WHEN GOP OFFICIALS WERE LOCKED IN NEGOTIATING BATTLE WITH INDIANS IN ISLAMABAD. SOME CONTACTS REGARD UDF AS HAVING ACTED IN IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER IN CREATING EXAGGERATED SPECTACLE OF INTERNAL PAKISTANI DISSENSION UNDER EYES OF VISITING INDIANS. EVEN THOSE OBSERVERS WHO HAVE NO SYMPATHY FOR BHUTTO OR PPP BELIEVE UDF HAS BEEN EITHER INSENSITIVE TO MAJOR ISSUE FACING NATION, OR OBTUSE, OR BOTH. ONE OBSERVER CRITICIZED ASGHAR KHAN ALONG SAME LINES BECAUSE OF RECENT KARACHI TROUBLES (KARACHI REFTL) BUT OTHERS THOUGHT RIOTS THERE WERE PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO PPP ACTIONS RATHER THAN TEHRIK.

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3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED REACTION, NOT NECESSARILY WIDESPREAD OR TYPICAL. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER UDF ACTIVITIES IN ANY WAY INFLUENCED INDIAN POSITION, OR WEAKENED PAKISTANI STANCE, DURING RECENT NEGOTIATIONS BUT CANNOT HELP NOTING THAT UDF HAS AGAIN MANAGED TO OFFEND SOME IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE SEGMENT OF LOCAL SOCIETY. KING

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